Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 02572 212328Z

64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUS-01 SEC-01 SCA-01 FBIE-00 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 W
---------- 017330
P 212240Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3958
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2572

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS
SUBJECT: VESCO RESPONDS TO PUBLIC CHARGES

REF: (A) 75 SAN JOSE 4379 NOTAL; (B) 75 STATE 260626 NOTAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: VESCO RESPONDS TO CHARGES OF IOS STOCK FRAUD AGAINST HIM AND ASSOCIATES BROUGHT BY COSTA RICAN CITIZEN BEFORE PUBLIC MINISTRY. INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY. VESCO CHARGES U.S. EMBASSY AND OFFICIALS WITH ASSISTING COSTA RICAN COMPLAINANT STATES HE IS BEING POLITICALLY PERSECUTED, SUGGESTS THIS HAS TO DO WITH EXTRADITION, AND OMINOUSLY ALLUDES, WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS, TO USG-INSPIRED "VIOLENT CRIMINAL ACTS" AGAINST HIM. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. FUGITIVE FINANCIER ROBERT L. VESCO RESPONDED FORCEFULLY IN LOCAL MEDIA MAY 21 TO CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND ASSOCIATES MADE BEFORE PUBLIC MINISTRY (MINISTERIO PUBLICO) FOR IOS-RELATED STOCK FRAUD. COMPLAINANT IS 75-YEAR-OLD RETIRED ARCHITECT/ CARLOS RECHNITZER WHO CLAIMS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 02572 212328Z

TO HAVE 13,500 SHARES OF WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS WORTHLESS IOS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

STOCK. PUBLIC MINISTRY IS NOW INVESTIGATING CHARGES.

3. VESCO SAYS IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT WITH ACCUSATION HE WILL "FINALLY HAVE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE A FAIR AND HONEST TRIBUNAL TO PRESENT ALL THE TRUE FACTS ABOUT THE SUPPOSED RELATIONSHIP ATTRIBUTED TO ME IN IOS, LTD., AND AS ARESULT, TO PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT ALL CHARGES ARE FALSE AND TO VINDICATE ME."

4. VESCO ALSO CHARGED THAT ARCHITECT RECHNITZER HAS BEEN INFLUENCED WITH ERRONEOUS AND FALSE INFORMATION "PERHAPS WITH DOCUMENTS FACILITATED TO HIM BY MY TENACIOUS POLITICAL PERSECUTORS." VESCO CONTINUES: "FOR EXAMPLE, I UNDERSTAND THAT RECHNITZER HAS SAID THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN COSTA RICA ASSISTED HIM AT MEETINGS AND WITH DOCUMENTS SUPPLIED BY THE SEC AND OTHER FUNCTIONARIES AND COLLABORATING AGENCIES OF THE USG." (COMMENT: RECHNITZER DENIES PUBLICLY HAVING MADE ANY SUCH STATEMENT.)

5. VESCO STATED AS WELL THAT RECHNITZER'S SUPPOSED CONTACT WITH HIS "POLITICAL PERSECUTORS" HAS TO DO WITH DESIRE OF LATTER "TO SEE AN EXTRADITION REQUEST PROSPER." AT ANY RATE, VESCO SAYS, HE IS DISPOSED TO COOPERATING WITH COSTA RICAN TRIBUNALS TO DEFEND HIMSELF.

6. VESCO'S MOST SERIOUS COUNTERCHARGES HAVE TO DO WITH SUPPOSED USG-INVOLVED CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST HIM. HE STATES: "AS IS KNOWN IN COSTA RICA, CERTAIN AGENCIES AND FUNCTIONARIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ALSO OFTEN USE, SUCH AS IN MY CASE, INDIRECT OR ILLEGAL AND VEILED METHODS THAT GO TO THE EXTREME OF INCLUDING VIOLENT CRIMINAL ACTS. I WILL ADDRESS THIS POINT FURTHER AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME."

7 VESCO'S DECLARATION ENDED ON NOTE THAT HE IS CONSOLED--EVEN IN MIDST OF MOST RECENT UNJUST CHARGES-- BY FACT THAT HE LIVES IN COUNTRY THAT HAS A JUST AND IMPARTIAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM

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8. COMMENT: INVESTIGATION AND POSSIBLE CIVIL SUIT AGAINST VESCO UNDOUBTEDLY VIEWED BY HIM AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF IMMINENT U.S. LEGAL ACTION AGAINST HIM. IN FACT, ARCHITECT RECHNITZER HAD PLANNED HIS MOVE FOR SAME TIME; HE ASKED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OCTOBER, 1975, TO OBTAIN COPIES OF OUTSTANDING INDICTMENTS IN U.S. FOR USE IN POSSIBLE CIVIL SUIT HERE. (A. 75 SAN JOSE 4379 AND B. 75 STATE 26026). AT THAT TIME EMBASSY PROVIDED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

RECHNITZER WITH ADDRESS OF CLERK OF COURT OF U.S.
SOUTHERN
DISTRICT; RECHNITZER TOOK IT FROM THERE.
RESPONSE FROM NEW YORK FINALLY ARRIVED IN MID-MAY, 1976.
TODMAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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